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April 20, 1999

RE: Docket # 98N-1038 "Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food."

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this brief note to let you know how I feel about the irradiation labeling requirements which may potentially expire in the near future.

It is important--actually **critical**--that these labeling requirements not expire. Since we know radiation causes cancer and irradiation is a form of radiation, it seems to me that this should be illegal, period. However, since irradiation is permitted (and some feel necessary), food that has been irradiated must be labeled accordingly. Irradiation is a significant part of the process if it is involved in food production and therefore should be labeled most obviously to distinguish irradiated food from non-irradiated food. This labeling is needed so that consumers, like myself, do not buy a kind of food that we do not wish to buy. Forget about the fact that I feel irradiated food is not good for the human body and should not be sold at all. At least let me and the millions of other consumers out there decide for ourselves if we wish to purchase this food.

For these and other reasons, I ask you to please make sure that the labeling requirements not expire and that the word 'irradiation' be used on all labeling. You and your children's health depend on it as well as mine..

Thank you,

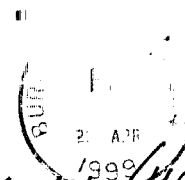

Matthew Koch

98N-1038

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